

Maharashtra and Haryana Post Poll Surveys - Methodology

Lokniti Team

Post Poll surveys were conducted by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Maharashtra and Haryana with the purpose of analysing the October 2014 Assembly elections in the two states. The survey in Maharashtra was conducted among 1542 respondents spread across 35 Assembly Constituencies. In Haryana it was conducted among 1462 respondents in 25 ACs. In both states, the constituencies were randomly selected using the Probability Proportionate to Size Method. Thereafter four polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the Systematic Random Sampling method. Finally, the respondents were also randomly selected using the same method from the latest electoral rolls of the sampled polling stations. A Post Poll survey is very different from an Exit Poll. Trained field investigators approached voters for an interview during the period after the polls were over (after 6 pm on 15th October) and before the results were known on 19th October. The investigators asked the respondents, in a face-to-face interview a detailed set of questions which could take up to 20-25 minutes. The achieved sample matches largely with the actual demographic profile of the population in the two states. The Post Poll studies were not used to make any vote or seat projections but are purely academic exercises for explaining the verdict. The data file used for analysis has been weighted by the actual vote share secured by major parties.

Table - Profile of Achieved Sample

	Maharashtra		Haryana	
	Census	Sample	Census	Sample
Scheduled Caste	11.8	18.1	20.1	22.2
Scheduled Tribe	9.3	8.6	-	-
Muslim	10.6	6.8	5.8	3.8
Women	48.1	42.7	46.7	41.2
Urban	45.9	39.4	34.8	32.4

Note: Census figures for Women, Urban, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are from Census 2011; Census figures for Muslims are from Census 2001.

The fieldwork of the study in Maharashtra was coordinated by Nitin Birmal (Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College, Pune), Vivek Ghotale (Savitribai Phule Pune University), Harshad Bhosale (Kirti College, Mumbai) and Rahul Bavage (Govt. College, Nagpur). The fieldwork in Haryana was coordinated by Kushal Pal and Anita Agarwal (Dyal Singh College, Karnal) and Nitin Mehta (Lokniti-CSDS, Delhi).

The surveys were designed and analysed by a team of researchers at Lokniti-CSDS. The team included Anuradha Singh, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Jyoti Mishra, Pranav Gupta, Shreyas Sardesai and Vibha Attri. Suhas Palshikar provided his suggestions during the entire exercise. The surveys were directed by Sanjay Kumar.